

directed to filter materials for filter pouches and filter bags for infusion beverages, and thus have no application as a car cover.

As the Examiner is well aware, “[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 803 (8th ed. August 2001) (emphasis added).

Applicants submit that the claims of group II are simply a preferred embodiment of the claims of Group I. Accordingly, the claims of Group II should be included with the claims of Group I. Any search necessary to examine the claims of Group I would necessarily uncover art relevant to the claims of Group II. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that a search of Groups I and II would not impose a “serious burden” on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims of Group I and II be considered together.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

November 21, 2003



Paul Dietze
For: Victor N. Balancia
PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP
1667 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 496-4400

Reg. No. 45,627
Reg No. 31,231

Enclosure